

As community members in & around the Schinnen area gear up for the festive Carnival Season, there are a few things to keep in mind regarding safety.

<u>Carnival Parades, Crowds & Child Safety</u> — Parents should be aware that participants on most parade vehicles customarily throw candy treats along the parade route. Extra caution needs to be taken to insure children don't run into the street to retrieve candy and risk being hit by a parade vehicle. Also, be alert that larger items such as apples and oranges are tossed into the crowd. Paying attention to passing parade vehicles will prevent you from being injured by thrown objects. Along the parade route, ropes and barriers are seldom put in place to prevent spectators from being bumped and falling into the street so standing back from the curb is a safe personal practice.

<u>Detours / Pedestrians & Bike Riders / Traffic Congestion</u> — Main roads through cities and towns hosting parades will be blocked off prior to the parade's start so anticipate detours and heavy traffic in some areas. Further, pedestrian and bicycle rider traffic will be extremely heavy in parade areas due to the lack of available vehicle parking. Paying extra attention while driving will prevent a traffic accident and possible injury. Always obey right-of-way rules, and drive extra slow near parade zones.

<u>Consumption of Alcohol and Drinking & Driving</u> — Be alert that many parade participants and spectators may be consuming alcohol during the parade and vehicle drivers may have consumed alcohol during evening festivities. Your vigilance to this and situational awareness of your surroundings may save you from someone else's careless behavior. If you plan on consuming alcohol, don't drink & drive. Assign a designated driver in advance or use available public transportation.

For your personal protection, Watch out for Thieves — Crowds and free flowing alcohol combined with little or no elbow room is a Pick Pockets' heaven. Make sure you guard your wallet, purses and any personal items you cherish. Stay alert to people moving close by, or brushing up against you. Don't take large amounts of cash with you; and if possible, don't advertise the fact that you're associated with the U.S. military to people you don't know.

